

Trevor Miller, 16, is against the war because he thinks there could be a more peaceful way to resolve the country's problems.



Miller

Korey Beckman, 16, is neutral. He says he supports the troops, but thinks there have been too many deaths.

Tamra Harrison, 19, is for the war. She thinks we need to take up for ourselves and our country, and show the rest of the world they cannot push us around, and that there will be consequences for their actions.



Harrison

Adam Moore, 20, is for the war because it would be better for the Iraqi people to live under democracy than a dictatorship.



Malone

Bill Malone, 15, is for the war because his family is.

Mike Alexander, 49, is for the war because he cares about the protection of our country and the safety of his family. He also appreciates the dedication and hard work of the troops.



CLASS PROJECT

After Catie Alexander finished her survey, she bound the responses and photographs of the people she interviewed in a booklet with a patriotic motif.

thousands of people. Jason thinks that the war will help end terrorism. He prays for the safe return of all the troops.

Carolyn Jones, 44, is against the war because he son is in it, and she knows that he is always facing danger. She thinks if they are going to send children to war, then President Bush should go himself.



Jones

Jan Bushman, 57, is for the war. She says she is convinced that the people involved in the Sept. 11 attacks were terrorists in Iraq — and also that there are innocent citizens in Iraq being suppressed, tortured and denied basic civil rights.

Diane Horton, 55, is against the war. She thinks it is important for the United States to be an example for the rest of the world. Diane does not think we can be the world's peacekeeper, and we cannot eliminate the bad people, because there are too many of them. She thinks other countries, like North Korea, are a bigger threat.



Horton

Jason Phillips, 31, is for the war. He believes that Saddam Hussein needed to be out of power because he killed hundreds of

SPEAK UP

Catie Alexander, a sophomore at Meridian High School, polled five adults and five classmates to get their responses to this question, "Are you for the war, or against it, and why?" Catie found that most of the people she talked to support the U.S. War on Terror — but there were a couple of exceptions. Here are her results.



Alexander

'I asked the Lord to send me a good man'

Brandi Goodman submitted this story to "Profile 2005: A Letter from Home" in honor of her husband, Maj. Kerry Goodman of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

By Brandi Goodman

special to The Star

Maj. Kerry W. Goodman is the combat operations officer of the 1st of the 1-198 Armor Battalion of the 155th Brigade Combat Team. He was called to active duty in July of 2004.

He left Meridian and was stationed at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg to train for the war. During this time, he went to a training center in California — but was able to fly home Dec. 9 for the birth of his second child.

I and our 4-year-old daughter, London, anxiously awaited his arrival. Our son, Lawson, was born on Dec. 10, 2004, at the WomanCare Birth Place at Riley Hospital.

The hospital staff was proud to be a part of the celebration of Kerry's return home. They went out of their way to make our stay at the hospital as comfortable as possible.

Before Kerry left, I put family pictures together in an album for him and wrote him this letter:

Kerry,

In August of 1995, I asked the Lord to send me a "good man." Before the month had ended, I met you. Since then, I have been blessed with a great marriage and two precious children.

You are a wonderful husband and an awesome father. You are the love of my life, and I thank God for you every day. I love you with all my heart and soul.

I want you to know how much I admire and respect you for serving our country the way you do. You are truly a great man. I am very proud to be your wife, and London and Lawson are lucky to have you as their father.

Although neither of us know what this next year will hold, please know that I am sending you all my love and praying that 10,000 angels will be surrounding you at all times. Please take care of yourself, and I promise to take care of London, Lawson and myself.

We will miss you so much and will be counting down the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

NEW ARRIVAL

Maj. Kerry Goodman flew home to Meridian in December for the birth of his son, Lawson. He is shown here at Riley Hospital with his wife, Brandi, Lawson and 4-year-old daughter, London.

days until you come home so that we can be a family again.

Once again, I love you with all of my heart and soul.

Watch your back, and come home to us soon.

Love,
Brandi



SUBMITTED PHOTO

BRAGGING ON BRUCE

Sgt. 1st Class Bruce O. Massey of Decatur is a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 890th Engineer Battalion. Here's what his wife, Angela, said about him: "He is an extraordinary man who has devoted 28 years to the service of his country. He participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom with all of his heart. Men who give their all deserve notice. He will retire in March after 28 years, 5 months of service. I am honored to be his wife and proudly shout from the rooftops that he is my hero. He is a man who can stand tall and never doubt that he has done his part."